THE GRAND JURIES ADDRESS and PRESENTMENTS TO THE Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Briſtol, &c.

To the Right Worſhipful Sir Richard Hart *Knight, Mayor of the ſaid City, and the Right Worſhipful and Worſhipful the Aldermen of the ſame, his* Majeſties *Juſtices of the Peace, of, and for the City, and the County of the ſame, now aſſembled in their General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace, begun and held the* 12th *day of* April *inſtant, and by ſeveral Adjournments continued to this* 26th *day of the ſame Month,* Anno Dom. 1681.

WE the Grand Jurors for our Soveraign Lord the King, and for the Body of the County of the ſaid City, as becomes good Chriſtians, do publickly and ſolemnly acknowledge and profeſs our Zeal for the true Reformed Religion, as the ſame is by Law eſtabliſh'd in the Church of *England*, as becomes Loyal and Dutiful Subiects, We take this Opportunity to repeat and teſtifie our Allegiance and bounden Dutie to His Majeſty, his Heirs and Succeſſors, acknowledging with all poſſible Gratitude the great happineſs and Tranquillitie, that (ſince his moſt happy Reſtauration) all his good Subjects have been bleſt with under his moſt gracious Reign and Government; and as becomes good Citizens, We render our unfeigned thanks to the Right Worſhipful Maſter *Mayor*, for his ſingular prudence and integrity in his adminiſtration (as Chief Magiſtrate) of the Government and Affairs of the City, according to the Duty of his Office; and eſpecially we muſt not omit to perpetuate and tranſmit to Poſterity (amongſt the Records of the Court) the memory of thoſe eminent and good offices done by Himſelf, and ſuch of the Worſhipful Aldermen and worthy Citizens of this City as have joyned with Him, in his and their hearty and active endeavours to ſecure and preſerve the Honour, Welfare and good Government of this City, with our Franchiſes and Priviledges from being invaded or trodden down by Ambitious, Factious, and unreaſonable Men, ſome of whom, by means of extraordinary Favours conferred on them by this City, have had the happineſs to be advanced into His Majeſties Royal Grace and Favor, and have been by Him honoured with Dignity, and preferred unto places of conſiderable Truſt and Profit; howſoever by them deſerved or requited. As to what chiefly relates to our preſent duty; forasmuch as the Religion eſtabliſhed and profeſt in our Church, hath the higheſt Obligations to Loyalty and Obedience, and is the firmeſt Ligature of all *Humane* Societies, and unleſs that be ſecured and defended, we cannot reaſonably promiſe our ſelves the Bleſſing either of Peace or Trade (both which particulars the Right Worſhipful Maſter *Myor* at the cloſe of the charge given us, was pleaſed in eſpecial manner to commend to our Conſideration) we thought it our duty to employ the greateſt part of the time allotted us for this preſent ſervice, about enquiring into the true Cauſes of the decay of the firſt of theſe (namely Religion) and with humble ſubmiſſion, to propoſe to this Court the ways and means to vindicate and reſtore it to its former purity and beauty amongſt us, that ſo the two other (*viz.*) Peace and Trade, which are ſo mainly influenced by the former, may be Reſtored and Increaſed alſo.

And upon ſuch enquiry, we find it too evident and apparent, and in purſuance of our oaths and duty we preſent, that thoſe who have abandoned their Pariſh-Churches, and refuſing to reſort thither, are become frequenters of unlawful Conventicles, and ſome other, who (though they have not perhaps, for fear of the penalties of the Laws, or for other reſpects, altogether forſaken their Pariſh-Churches) are become notable Encouragers and Countenancers of Conventicles, do give the greater wound to our Religion, and adminiſter the greateſt ſcandal to the true Profeſſors thereof, and are the principal Authors of all the great diſorders and breaches of his Majeſties peace, diſturbances of the Government of this City, Tumults, Riots, and other factious, ſeditious, and diſloyal practiſes that have happened amongſt us, whereby, and by the dangerous and pernicious Principles and Doctrines, as are taught at ſuch Conventicles, and are daily ſpread abroad within this City, by ſuch as are inſpired and actuated by Fanatick zeal and Democratick fury, the very Foundation of our eſtabliſhments, both in Church and State, are endeavoured to be removed, and the minds not only of ſuch as are Inhabitants here, but of ſuch alſo as being ſtrangers would otherwiſe reſort hither for the ſake of the Commerce and Traffique, are quite taken off from their Trade and Buſineſs, and are poſſeſs'd many of them with doubts and fears, others with hopes of great alterations, if not a total ſubverſion of the Monarchy and Government, and too much of that time, which would be better employed by ſome in their Callings, is ſpent in debating of State-matters, and in hearing and reading News, which, though oftentimes it proves falſe, yet is very glibly ſwallowed by the Credulous Vulgar, who commonly delight to be entertained with fables and falſhoods, eſpecially ſuch as reflect on his Majeſty, his Affairs or Government, which we preſent as being of great detriment and hinderance to our Trade, as well as deſtructive to his Majeſties peace, and tending to the Impoveriſhment of the City.

And therefore we further preſent the tolerating of, or connivance at, ſuch unlawful Conventicles, to be utterly inconſiſtent with the honour and ſafety of the Church, and the intereſt of the Religion by Law eſtabliſhed, his Majeſties peace, and the good Government and Trade of this City; and do humbly deſire that the Laws and Statutes in force againſt ſuch like Conventicles, as well as againſt *Popiſh* Recuſants, if any be within this City, may be put in ſpeedy and effectual execution, in order to their being ſuppreſt and convicted: and that ſuch as frequent ſuch Conventicles, eſpecially the Preachers, may be proceeded againſt, and puniſhed as the Law directs, the rather for that they have been ſo often complained of by ſeveral former Grand Juries, at ſeveral former Seſſions, in the Mayoralty of former Mayors, by preſentments of the like nature, which have proved ſo fruitleſs, that were it not that the Conſciences of our Oaths and Duties did prevail upon us above all other diſcouragements, we ſhould have forborn theſe Preſentments at this time.

We preſent that all ſuch are guilty of the breach of their Oathes of Burgeſſes, who knowing of any unlawful aſſemblies (whether under pretence of Religious Worſhip, or otherwiſe) as have been, are, or ſhall be within this City, contrary to the Laws, do not give notice thereof to Maſter *Mayor* for the time being, or ſuch other Perſon or Perſons, as by the Tenor of the ſaid Oath they are directed.

Item, We Preſent, that Sir *John Knight*, Kt. one of the Aldermen of this City, who according to the Duty of his Office, ought to be Aiding and aſſiſting to Mr. Mayor for the time being, in the execution of his Mayoralty, did on the eleventh day of *February* laſt paſt, in a furious and menacing manner, Affront and Aſſault the Right Worſhipful Mr. Mayor, on the publique *Towlsey* whilſt he was in the Execution of his Office of Mayor, and had the Sword of Juſtice before him; He the ſaid Sir

Sir *John Knight* shaking a Cane he then held in his hand at the said Mr. Mayor, and calling him base fellow, and giving him the lie, in the presence of diverse persons of Quality, and others; in contempt of our Soveraign Lord the King, to the dishonour of this City, and the Government thereof.

We Present the said Sir *John Knight*; for his publick Stigmatizing and Branding all such of His Majesties Loyal Subjects, as gave their votes at the last Election of Parliament-men within this City, for Mr. Mayor and Mr. *Tho. Earle*, Members to serve for this City in the last Parliament, with diverse reproachful, odious, and Ignominious Names and Characters, especially of Papists, Popish dogs, Jesuits, and Popish Devils.

Item, We present Sir *Robert Atkins* Knight of the Bath, and Recorder, one of the Aldermen of the City, and the said Sir *John Knight*, *John Lawford* another Alderman of the same City, *Henry Meriet*, *Henry Gleston* Senior, *William Downing*, *Samuel Hallis*, *Stephen Watts*, *John Hine* and *Humphry Cresly*, Members of the Common Council of the same City; and *Charles Plummer* Miner, a Citizen and free Burgess of the same City, for that they, in and by a certain Writing under the Title of a Petition, by them Subscribed and Published within this City, directed to the Honourable the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses of the House of Commons in Parliament Assembled; did falsely, maliciously, and scandalously cause to be inserted diverse, notorious and scandalous Untruths and Falshoods, tending to the Dishonour and the Reproach of the good Government of this City, of Mr. Mayor, and the present Sheriffs of the same: and diverse other persons of Quality and Loyalty; particularly, those of the Artillery within the said City, and to the stirring up of causless heats, Animosities, and breaches of His Majesties Peace amongst His Majesties Subjects within this City, and elsewhere; and we humbly submit it to the consideration of this Court, whether the said Sir *Robert Atkins* his continual Non-Residence amongst us, and his deserring the Service of this City, in his not Advising and Assisting Mr. Mayor, in matters of great Importance to this City, be not a sufficient cause for removing him from his place of Recorder of the said City.

We Present *John Roe*, to be a Common lover of Discord and strife amongst his Majesties Subjects within this City, one of the chief Authors of all those sad Divisions that have lately risen amongst us; a person of a Vitious and Profligate life and Conversation, a Liar, a False Accuser of His Majesties Subjects, and not fit to approach the person or company of Mr. Mayor, or any other of the Magistrates of this City, much less to bear the Sword before him; and in case he be not already dismist from bearing the Sword before Mr. Mayor, We humbly pray his Worship, that at some convenient time he will please to conveen an house of the Common Council, in order to dismiss him, and chuse some fit and Loyal person for that Service.

Item, We Present that *Rich. Fairclough*, *John Weeks*, *George Fowns*, *Young*, *John Moone*, *Steele*, *Throughton*, and diverse others, whose Names we do not as yet know, not being in Holy Orders as we believe, but being Nonconformist Preachers, do frequently take upon them to Preach and Teach without being Licensed, in several unlawful Conventicles and Meetings, set up and continued within this City, contrary to the Laws and Statutes in that behalf; whereby they seduce diverse of his Majesties Subjects from their Loyalty and Obedience: And that the Laws in Force, especially the Act of Parliament made at *Oxon*, for the restraining of Non-Conformists to come into Cities or Corporations, or within five miles of them, be put in speedy execution against them; It being impossible that the peace of this City should be preserved so long as such Incendiaries are tolerated amongst us.

Item, We Present that the Coffe-house and Tipling-house of *John Kimber* near the *Toulzey*, in the Parish and Ward of *St. Ewen* within this City, hath a door newly made therein near adjoyning, and opposite to St. *Ewins* principal Church door, whereby diverse dissolute, idle and disorderly persons sitting Tipling and Smoaking Tobacco in the said Coffee-house at time of saying of Divine Service, and doing other Holy Offices in the same Church, do with derision and contempt look on such as are at their Devotions in the said Parish Church, and by their Tipling and Tobacco taking there, do offend and interupt such as are so at Church in such their Devotion, and greatly Scandalize them.

And We further Present, that the said Coffee-house is commonly frequented as well on Lords days as other days, by many Schismatical and Seditious *Sectaries*, and other Disloyal persons, where for their encouragement in Tipling, they are usually entertained with false News, Lying and Scandalous Libels and Pamphlets, tending to the Reproach and Dishonour of the Estabilsh'd Religion, and of his Majestie and Government; and diverse of his great Officers and Ministers of State. For avoidiug whereof, and the great inconveniences and mischiefs thereby arising; and for removing the Offence thereby justly given to diverse of His Majesties Loyal Subjects; We Present it as necessary, and Humbly pray, that if it lie in the Power of this Court, the said house may be suppresst, and not applyed to that ill use, or else that this Court will take Order that no Printed or Written News or Pamphlets be suffered to be Read or Published there, or in any other Coffee or Tipling-house, but only such as shall first be shew'n to Mr. Mayor, or the Alderman of the Ward for the time being, where such Coffee house is, and be by one of them Allowed or Approved of, as fit to be Read or Published.

The rest of our Presentments are contained in several Schedules hereunto annexed: Thus having done Our parts in Presenting according to our Consciences, We presume your Worships will not be wanting in punishing, as Your Duty, and as the Law directs; by which means future Grand Jurors will be encouraged to present Offenders and offences likewise. And if so, We may Reasonably hope to see Disloyal, Seditious, Factious, and Disorderly persons discountenanced; and Peace, and Plenty, and all outward Happiness to flourish amongst us; to the envy of his Majesties, and our Enemies; to the Joy and Comfort of us all, and of his Majesty also, whose Life and Reign, GOD Almighty long preserve, *AMEN.*

Walter Gunter,
George Larkin,
Robert Brookhouse,
John Ollife,
Edw. Millard,
Tho. Lugg.

Tho. Turner,
Rich. Gibbins,
Will. Lewis.

Thomas Durbin,
Thomas Rich,
Benjamin Rostern,
Rob. Lippiac,
Rich. Kirwood,
Tho. Rogerson.

Thomas Tilie,
Hen. Daniele,
Will. Scott.

EDINBURGH,

Re-Printed by the Heir of *Andrew Anderson*, Printer to the Kings most Excellent MAJESTY, *Anno DOM.* 1681.